



Notice of Availability of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Enhanced Watershed Management Programs

Date: January 21, 2015

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability/Notice of Completion of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

Project: Enhanced Watershed Management Programs

Lead Agency: Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Review Period: January 21, 2015 through March 9, 2015

Project Location: The Enhanced Watershed Management Programs encompass several watersheds of Los Angeles County including the following: Ballona Creek, Beach Cities, Dominguez Channel, Malibu Creek, Marina del Rey, North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watersheds (NSMBCW), Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group (RH/SGRWQG), Santa Monica Bay, Upper Los Angeles River, Upper San Gabriel River, and Upper Santa Clara River. The watersheds are shown in Figure 1.

Project Description: The LACFCD, the County of Los Angeles, and 84 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County (collectively referred to as Permittees) are covered under a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Permit No. CAS004001) for the discharge of urban runoff to waters of the United States. The purpose of the MS4 Permit is to ensure Permittees are not causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives or impairments of beneficial uses in the receiving waters of the Los Angeles region. The 2012 MS4 Permit for Los Angeles County gives Permittees the option of implementing an innovative approach to Permit compliance through development of EWMPs. The LACFCD and participating Permittees have opted to exercise this option and have submitted 12 separate Notices of Intent (NOIs) for the development of 12 EWMPs in their respective watershed groups to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). The LARWQCB is responsible for approval of the EWMPs in compliance with the MS4 Permit. Implementation of the EMWPs would occur following approval by the LARWQCB.

The 12 EWMPs will vary for each watershed group, but will generally provide the opportunity for Permittees to customize their stormwater programs to achieve compliance with applicable receiving water limitations (RWLs) and water-quality-based effluent limits (WQBELs) in accordance with the MS4 Permit through implementation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) or watershed control measures. BMPs vary in function and type, with each BMP providing unique design characteristics and benefits from implementation. The overarching goal of BMPs in the EWMP is to reduce the impact of stormwater and non-stormwater on receiving water quality and address the water quality priorities as defined by the MS4 Permit. The development of each EWMP will involve the evaluation and selection of multiple BMP types, including nonstructural (institutional) and distributed, centralized, and regional structural watershed control measures, that will be implemented to meet compliance goals and strategies under the 2012 MS4 Permit. The PEIR analysis is not intended to focus on the site-specific construction and operation details of each management strategy and project included in the EWMP. Rather, this PEIR serves as a first-tier environmental document that focuses on the effects of implementing the EWMP

overall as plans to reduce urban runoff pollution. Fundamentally, the EWMPs provide a long-term permit compliance strategy or “Program” to be conducted by multiple implementing agencies that will result in geographically diverse and varied stormwater quality improvement infrastructure throughout Los Angeles County.

The LACFCD has flood control infrastructure in each of the EWMP areas and a vested interest in increasing opportunities for stormwater capture and groundwater recharge as a means of assisting local water supply augmentation. The LACFCD is participating in all 12 EWMPs. The LACFCD will be working with the applicable Permittees and other stakeholders in all 12 EWMP watersheds to develop the EWMPs, which will be implemented by the Permittees that have jurisdiction within each EWMP area. The Permittees implementing the projects defined in the EWMPs, or “implementing agencies,” will vary between EWMPs and individual projects. The LACFCD will be an implementing agency only on those projects for which it has been identified in an EWMP as a responsible implementing party.

LACFCD is the CEQA Lead Agency for this PEIR. This PEIR can be used by the LACFCD or other Permittees to streamline environmental review of individual EWMP projects. As individual projects identified in the EWMPs are fully developed, the implementing agency will conduct CEQA analysis for individual projects as appropriate or may determine that no additional CEQA analysis is required or that a project is exempt from CEQA.

Goals and Objectives: The primary goals and objectives of the EWMPs are:

- To collaborate among agencies (Permittee jurisdictions) across the watershed to promote more cost-effective and multi-beneficial water quality improvement projects to comply with the MS4 Permit.
- To develop watershed-wide EWMPs that will, once implemented, remove or reduce pollutants from dry- and wet-weather urban runoff in a cost-effective manner.
- To reduce the impact of stormwater and non-stormwater on receiving water quality.

Potential Environmental Impacts: This Draft PEIR describes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed program. The analysis assesses worst case situations where construction or operation of projects may significantly impact environmental resources. The analysis outlines mitigation strategies to be followed by implementing agencies to avoid or minimize impacts wherever feasible. It identifies the potential for significant effects to: Air Quality (Construction and Cumulative), Cultural Resources, and Noise (Construction and Cumulative).

Responses and Comments: The LACFCD is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies as to the content of this Draft PEIR. In accordance with CEQA, the Draft PEIR will be available for public review and comment for a 45-day period. All written comments received will be commented on and included in the Final PEIR. The PEIR will be used by LACFCD's governing Board, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, when considering approval of the proposed EWMPs as well as for any related discretionary approvals.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, all comments to the Draft PEIR are due no later than **March 9, 2015**. Please send your comments to the address shown below. Include a return address or email address and a contact name in your agency with your comments.

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Document Availability: Hardcopies of the Draft PEIR are available for public review during regular business hours at the locations listed below:

- County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 S Fremont Ave, 5th Floor, Alhambra, CA
- Culver City Julian Dixon Library, 4975 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA
- View Park Library, 3845 W. 54th St, Los Angeles, CA
- Hermosa Beach Library, 550 Pier Ave, Hermosa Beach, CA
- Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA
- Hawthorne Library, 12700 Grevillea Ave, Hawthorne, CA
- Carson Library, 151 E. Carson St, Carson, CA
- Agoura Hills Library, 29901 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA
- Lloyd Taber Marina del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA
- Malibu Library, 23519 W. Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA
- Lomita Library, 24200 Narbonne Ave, Lomita, CA
- Duarte Library, 1301 Buena Vista St, Duarte, CA
- Live Oak Library, 4153-55 E. Live Oak Ave, Arcadia, CA
- Wiseburn Library, 5335 W. 135th St, Hawthorne, CA
- San Gabriel Library, 500 S. Del Mar Ave, San Gabriel, CA
- La Cañada Flintridge Library, 4545 N. Oakwood Ave, La Cañada Flintridge, CA
- Baldwin Park Library, 4181 Baldwin Park Blvd, Baldwin Park, CA
- La Puente Library, 15920 E. Central Ave, La Puente, CA
- Stevenson Ranch Express Library, 26233 W. Faulkner Dr, Stevenson Ranch, CA

The Draft PEIR and other project information can be accessed at: www.LACoH2Osheds.com

Public Hearings: LACFCD will hold five public hearings to present the project and the Draft PEIR, and to accept written and oral comments. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, January 29: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Florence-Firestone Service Center
7807 S. Compton Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90001

Tuesday, February 3: – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
LA County Fire Camp #2 Classroom (x Hahamongna Watershed Park)
4810 Oak Grove Dr, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Thursday, February 5 – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
San Pedro Service Center
769 W. Third St., San Pedro, CA 90731

Tuesday, February 10: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Topanga Library
122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, CA 90290

Wednesday, February 11: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Hacienda Heights Community Center
1234 Valencia Avenue, Hacienda Heights CA 91745

Tuesday, February 17: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
East Los Angeles Library
4837 East 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022

Figure 1: Overview EWMP Groups

